**Initial Water Quality Tests**

**Directions:** Make observations of four water samples. Fill in the following table with the information from your observations. Then use your observations, the discussions in class, and your own knowledge to answer the questions.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Sample** | **Number of Visible Particles Present** | **Color of Water** | **Odor** | **General Description** |
| **1** |  |  |  |  |
| **2** |  |  |  |  |
| **3** |  |  |  |  |
| **4** |  |  |  |  |

**Analysis**

1. What makes one sample of water better or worse than another?
2. Rank the samples from best to worst. Why did you choose this order?
3. Which sample would you rather drink? Why?
4. Which sample do you think we could give a plant? Why?
5. What relationship do you see between the water we would drink and the water a plant would “drink”? Why do you think this is?
6. You just performed your first water quality test. Do you think these tests told us everything there is to know about the water? Why?
7. If you answered no to number 6, how do you think we could test for the missing elements? If you answered yes to number 6, how do you know these are the only important characteristics of water?